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REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1877.

KEENE:

SENTINEL PRINTING COMPANY, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

1877.

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REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN OF CHESTERFIELD, MAR. 1, 1877.

RECEIPTS.

Town tax bill of 1870,	\$9 40
Interest on tax bill of 1870,	1 19
Town tax bill of 1874,	4 49
Interest on tax bill of 1874,	19
Cash in treasury, March 1, 1876,	528 40
County pauper claims,	390 08
For spikes,	25
Loans for use of town,	2,000 00
Town tax bill of 1875,	1,504 24
Interest on tax bill of 1875, of taxes paid after December 1st,	49 01
Money that belonged to Thankful Whitaker,	4 83
Interest on temporary loan,	22 53
Assessments for the year of 1876,	5,648 45
Of Augustus Streeter, for aid by the town,	3 40
Sale of Mrs. Luther Streeter's goods,	11 50
Railroad tax,	1 62
Savings Bank tax,	516 52
Literary fund,	101 70
Sale of Thankful Whitaker's bed and clothing,	7 00
For use of common for 1876,	5 00
For use of town hall,	18 50
For rent of Whitaker land,	25 00
From sale of " "	116 00
" " a cow,	26 00
" " brick, iron, &c.,	8 00
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	\$11,003 30

PAYMENTS.

ACCOUNT OF TOWN DEBTS.

Town notes and interest,	\$1,217 60
Town bonds,	220 00
Interest on town bonds,	92 40
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	\$1,530 00

TOWN PAUPERS.

For Levi Whitaker and daughter,	253 98
Freeman Knights,	86 58
Chauncy R. Hildreth,	131 27
Rawson W. Hubbard,	222 50
Mrs. Luther Streeter,	70 74
Augustus Streeter,	3 40
Charles Harvey's daughter,	26 34
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	\$794 81

COUNTY PAUPERS.

For John Black,	\$ 68 46
Humphrey G. Albee,	105 00
Hannah Crouch,	33 86
Joseph and Felix Forgett,	17 60
John Q. Trask's funeral expenses,	54 00
Transient persons,	19 75
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	\$298 67

NEW ROAD.

Paid S. M. Waite, for building road,	\$800 00
For new bridge, and plank and timber repairing roads and bridges :—	
Paid John O. Hubbard, for timber,	\$104 00
Erastus H. Cobleigh, boards for Harris' bridge,	17 31
James H. Goodrich, 2d, nails and spikes,	4 08
Warren W. Farr, plank,	2 05
Joseph C. Hubbard, “	18 00
Horace D. Smith, “	3 15
William Atherton, “	2 78
Martin G. Wright, “	3 08

Paid Ezra H. Davis, for plank,	\$3 34
Watson Wheeler, “	35
Alfred Farr, “	2 00
Lanson Stone, “	3 75
John F. Goodrich, timber,	2 56
Joshua W. Chamberlain jr.,	5 72
George Goodrich, timber and plank,	6 88
James H. Goodrich, plank,	18 05
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	\$197 05

LABOR ON ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid J. W. Taylor, work on roads,	\$42 42
Amos E. Brown, “ “	2 40
Martin G. Wright, “ “	4 10
Levi L. Colburn, “ “	3 75
Levi H. Lincoln, “ “	2 00
Alfred Farr, “ “	3 00
Geo. A. Spafford, “ “	26 64
Hix Field, “ “	2 70
J. L. Streeter, “ “	26 25
Warren Bingham, “ “	10 00
Allen Beals, road, “ “	15 00
Parker Farr, “ “	1 80
Henry Pierce, “ “	2 00
Wm. H. Pierce, “ “	2 00
Work on bridge,	35 50
Amos R. Hubbard, work on bridge,	7 00
Charles M. Davis, “ “	5 00
John Hildreth, “ “	5 00
James H. Goodrich, “ “	4 50
James H. Scott, “ roads,	9 35
John F. Goodrich,	3 00
Leroy Salsbury,	8 31
George Spaulding,	2 70
Henry Chickering,	3 00
Edward Jarvis,	2 50
	<hr/>
	\$229 92

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid John L. Streeter, services as Selectman,	\$108 00
Amos R. Hubbard, " "	48 00
William Atherton, " "	38 00
Edward P. F. Dearborn, services as S. S. Com.,	40 00
" " " town clerk,	49 21
John L. Streeter, services as treasurer,	25 00
C. C. Hildreth, " constable,	3 00
Noyes Robertson, tax collector for 1875-6,	120 00
Fred B. Pierce, services as Moderator two days,	4 00
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	\$435 21

TOWN HOUSE.

Paid for ringing bell and care of house,	\$12 00
For oil and repairs " "	3 21
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	\$15 21

SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

No. 1,	\$147 92
" 2,	117 90
" 3,	85 78
" 4,	89 79
" 5,	148 34
" 6,	93 94
" 7,	101 27
" 8,	90 99
" 9,	97 89
" 10,	127 20
" 11,	80 92
" 12,	83 11
" 13,	190 58
" 14,	82 32
" 15,	63 75
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	\$1,601 70

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid for stationery and postage,	\$1 87
F. A. Faulkner, counsel fee,	22 00
Printing Town Reports for 1875,	15 00
Tax book,	1 75
Printing produce and exemption blanks,	7 00

Paid Expressage,	\$1 10
John Hildreth, repairing hearse,	1 25
D. F. Randall, recording births and deaths,	5 25
John F. Butler, " " "	5 50
Lock for trunk,	20
G. H. Tilden & Co., for 2½ doz. highway books,	2 50
County Commissioner, for laying road in 1875,	33 40
John W. Davis, on execution bill,	17 14
Onesime Peltier, repairing iron rods for bridge,	85
William Bigelow, damage to wagon,	1 00
Damage done by dogs,	38 50
Smith Starkey, repair scraper,	17
Barna A. Clark, 1 scraper,	6 75
Ransom Farr, planing and jointing boards for Har- ris' bridge,	4 25
J. N. Spencer & Co., 1 scraper,	8 00
Taking affidavits,	2 49
M. T. Tottingham, lettering 2 guide boards,	3 00
Warren W. Farr, guide board post,	50
George L. Fullum, surveying, and expenses on Mountain road,	9 50
N. F. Cabbot, land damage on Mountain road,	1 00
Vermont Asylum, " " "	1 00
George L. Fullam, surveying Pond road, and mak- ing record and other expenses,	12 75
James H. Goodrich, repairing scraper,	2 00
Making 2 deeds,	1 25
County tax,	842 63
Discount on taxes paid prior to Oct. 1, 1876,	217 15
Fred B. Pierce, surveying Steam Mill road,	1 00
Sentinel Printing Co., check lists,	6 50
For 2 straps for Factory cemetery,	2 00
For watering tubs, furnished for public use,	8 00
State tax,	1,408 00
For printing auction bills,	1 50
Error on tax bill of 1875,	5 29
Eli Taft, damage crossing land for 1875-6,	6 00
J. E. Joslin, work in 1875,	4 50
Levett Safford, driving hearse in town,	36 00
Pauper expense, and team work,	49 25

Non-resident highway receipts,	\$ 44 48
Due on tax bill of 1876,	1,279 32
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	\$4,118 59
Total of all expenditures,	\$10,121 16
Cash in treasury,	982 14
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	\$11,003 30

STATE OF TREASURY, MARCH 1, 1877.

LIABILITIES.

Town notes payable,	\$8,630 45
Town bonds,	1,349 70
Dog tax money,	69 50
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	\$10,099 65

ASSETS.

Tax bill of 1869,	\$ 2 10
“ 1871,	10 81
“ 1875,	50 00
“ 1876,	1,279 32
County pauper claim,	73 43
Cash in treasury,	982 14
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	\$2,397 80
Town indebtedness,	\$7,701 85

ESTIMATED EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR 1877.

State tax,	\$1,296 00
County tax,	1,042 81
Town charges,	1,000 00
Town bonds,	220 00
Interest on debt,	600 00
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	\$4,158 81

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN L. STREETER,
AMOS K. HUBBARD,
WILLIAM ATHERTON,

Selectmen of Chesterfield.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

Citizens and Parents:—The following Report for the year ending March, 1877, is herewith submitted to you in accordance with Chap. 4, Sec. 19 of the General Statutes.

Of all the relations mutually sustained by the different classes of society, none are more closely interwoven with its tenderest associations, or more thoroughly identified with its stability and happiness than those existing between the parent and the teacher. A correct understanding thereof is perhaps the most important although least appreciated means for promoting the common cause in which both are engaged, and for the ultimate success of which both are largely responsible. As the legitimate outgrowth of these relations arise laws of moral obligation and trust, reciprocal in character and operation, binding each party to their proper observance and use. Upon the parent, in addition to the general knowledge he is supposed to possess respecting the working of the schools, they impose the duty of especially informing himself of their order and discipline, also the course of study prescribed, together with many minor details affecting their mode of operation. *To do this adequately requires frequent visits and much personal inspection.* Unfortunately, however, these obligations are so far from being practically acknowledged, that in few of the varied concerns of life do parents manifest such a degree of credulity and indifference as here. When once the pupil is entered in school, many parents act as if absolved from all further responsibility in the matter. Such personal neglect cannot fail to produce disastrous results on all concerned.

No system of teaching yet invented can enable teachers arbitrarily and at pleasure to unfold the mind, mould the will, and control the conduct of other people's children. Some are perverse, intractable and wayward; some dull and slow of apprehension; others quick and apt to learn, but lacking in application; some are retarded by physical and inherited disabilities; others by unfortunate and depressing social conditions; yet against all this array of conflicting material and circumstance the teacher is expected to maintain a uniform system of classification as well as a uniform and elevated standard of discipline. How absolutely essential, therefore, to the successful prosecution of the task is the earnest and devoted co-operation of the parent! It is needed not only for strength and support, but also as an incentive to fresh endeavor, and no less as an approval and reward of faithful, meritorious service.

Such, then, being some of the plain duties of parents, it is obvious that those of teachers, although widely differing in complexion, are equally binding, and cannot, without violence to responsible trusts, be repudiated. That the teacher's official intercourse and authority should be invariably characterized by courtesy well tempered with patience and forbearance, seems too self-evident for comment.

Our teachers are especially counselled to avoid at all times hasty and all-advised action, as tending to precipitate rather than diminish difficulties. Opportunities for following this suggestion frequently arise, either growing out of mutual misunderstandings, or else from calumnious reports set afloat with malicious intent to defame the teacher and disparage his work. Whatever the cause or provocation, the ends of right and justice will usually be best promoted by calm, dispassionate conduct, while at the same time friendly sentiments will thus be encouraged and the continuance of hostile ones prevented.

In cases requiring severe treatment, appeal to the parents personally, if possible, is desirable, in order that their aid may be secured in carrying out measures of reform. This course would often serve to modify grievances, soften harsh decisions, remove from both teacher and parent the imputation of unfairness, and assist in correcting a serious fault in the character of the child.

The discipline of our schools is, in the main, wholesome and salutary. Recognizing self-government as the noblest type and underlying principle of all just government, it rejects the mere despotic exercise of arbitrary power. A large class of cruel punishments formerly tolerated and frequently used in all common schools, have, we trust, been forever consigned to merited oblivion. Among them we may name unnatural, prolonged, and painful posturing of the limbs or body; brutal blows struck at random on the head; confinement in dark closets, and various other provocatives to fear, often producing a state of nervous excitability hard to overcome, even in mature years. Although the monster evil in this respect has been destroyed, yet occasional specimens of its numerous progeny are met with, or come to the knowledge of your Committee, always, however, to receive unqualified condemnation. These include the needless exposure of natural defects; bitter, sarcastic reproofs; passionate or ill-timed rebuke; and every form of fool's-cap ridicule, which, by degrading the pupil in his own estimation and that of his fellows, provokes his anger but fails to effect his reform.

Nature has wisely implanted in every breast germs of self-respect, often united with a keen sense of personal honor, which, with judicious culture, may become powerful adjuncts for good. Attention to these qualities, if made in a spirit of candor, will do much towards securing respectful deportment; and that scholar must be incorrigibly bad who can stubbornly resist the influence of kind, careful invocations of reason and conscience.

It still remains an unsolved problem whether the judicious use of the rod can be safely dispensed with. Children may still be found in our midst who, at home, are taught obedience by no better arguments than brute force. But none would more heartily rejoice than your Committee at the advent of an era when parental rule throughout the community might rise to such a degree of dignity that teachers could entirely dispense with physical chastisements to the manifest advantage of all concerned.

“Train up a *parent* in the way he should go,” is a fitting text from which to plead for mutual confidence and co-opera-

tion between the different departments of our educational interests, to the end that continual advancement may be observed from year to year.

In the retrospect we see much that is imperfect in our work, being human, but withal many things to encourage and inspire. It is hardly necessary to add that whatever of excellence the year now gone has witnessed is mostly due to the qualifications, fidelity, and earnestness of the teachers. To them we offer congratulations.

We now invite your attention to the following schedule of our work, which will furnish, at least, a hint of what has transpired :

SUMMER TERM.

No. District.	TEACHERS.	Residence.	No. of Weeks School.	Number of Scholars.
1	Mrs. L. M. Richardson,	Chesterfield.	7	27
2	Cora B. Hubbard,	"	10	9
3	Mary A. Cobleigh,	"	7	11
4	Abbie L. Cressy,	"	9	9
5	Mrs. Emily J. Darling,	"	10	24
6	Ida M. Johnson,	"	6	7
7	Fannie L. Eaton,	"	5	15
8	Abbie R. Goodrich,	"	7	11
9	Emma L. Snow,	"	9	9
10	Alice J. Field,	Northfield, Mass.	8	14
11	Lena S. Streeter,	Chesterfield,	6	5
12	Frank W. Torrey,	"	7	7
13	Gertrude E. Robertson,	"	9	45
14	Addie M. Farwell,	"	7	10

WINTER TERM.

No. District.	TEACHERS.	Residence.	No. of Weeks School.	Number of Scholars.
1	Clarence S. Hale,	Bernardston, Ms.,	12	28
2	Cora B. Hubbard,	Chesterfield,	10	18
3	Edwin D. Wells,	Bernardston, Ms.,	12	16
4	Mrs. Katie L. Thomas,	Hinsdale,	9	10
5	George F. Burnham,	Chesterfield,	10	16
6	Anna C. Randall,	"	10	11
7	Carrie L. Whitcomb,	Swanzey,	11	24
8	Jennie A. Faulkner,	Westport,	9	17
9	Emma L. Snow,	Chesterfield,	10	11
10	Alice J. Field,	Northfield, Mass.,	13	9
11	Lena S. Streeter,	Chesterfield,	10	6
12	Frank W. Torrey,	"	9	7
13	Gertrude E. Robertson,	"	12	17
13 P.	Anna L. Read,	Westport,	12	22
14	Addie M. Farwell,	Chesterfield,	11	10

David W. Slade and Bertie H. Howe, of District No. 13, Winter Term, for misdemeanor, were suspended from the school.

Summer Term—No. of Scholars Reciting.

No. District.	Reading.	Spelling.	Pennanship.	Arithmetic.	Geography.	Grammar.	History.
1	27	27	15	16	9	3	0
2	9	9	2	4	3	1	0
3	11	11	11	8	2	4	0
4	9	9	4	7	2	2	0
5	24	24	17	20	3	2	0
6	7	7	5	6	1	3	0
7	15	13	6	12	9	4	2
8	11	11	7	8	4	1	2
9	9	11	7	6	3	3	1
10	14	14	10	8	3	3	0
11	5	5	3	4	4	1	0
12	7	7	6	6	1	0	0
13	44	44	16	23	9	6	3
14	10	10	7	6	2	4	0

Winter Term—No. of Scholars Reciting.

No. District.	Reading.	Spelling.	Pennanship.	Arithmetic.	Geography.	Grammar.	History.
1	28	13	10	19	11	5	0
2	18	18	6	15	4	6	0
3	16	16	16	15	4	6	1
4	10	8	6	7	2	2	0
5	16	16	8	14	8	2	0
6	11	11	8	10	4	4	0
7	24	24	10	20	12	4	4
8	17	17	8	14	2	5	0
9	9	11	8	9	5	3	3
10	9	9	8	8	2	3	0
11	6	6	6	6	5	1	0
12	7	7	7	6	1	0	0
13	17	17	9	17	5	9	10
13 P.	22	22	6	11	3	0	0
14	10	10	8	8	6	5	0

ADVICE TO INSTRUCTORS OF YOUTH.

The preceptors of youth, of either sex, ought to be again and again admonished of the importance of the task which they have undertaken, and also of its difficulty.

It is their duty to be patient with the dull, and steady with the forward—to encourage the timid, and repress the insolent—fully to employ the minds of their pupils, without over-burdening them—to awaken their fear, without exciting their dislike—to communicate the stores of knowledge according to the capacity of the learner, and to enforce obedience by the strictness of discipline. Above all, it is their bounden duty to be ever on the watch, and to check the first beginnings of vice. For, valuable as knowledge may be, virtue is infinitely more valuable; and worse than useless are those mental accomplishments which are accompanied by depravity of heart.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD P. F. DEARBORN.

Sup't. School Committee.

Chesterfield, March, 1877.

